

Appendix table 7-28

**Public preferences about various groups' influence on decisions about public issues: 2006 and 2010**

(Percent and mean score)

Public issue/group	2006						2010					
	Preferred degree of influence					Mean score	Preferred degree of influence					Mean score
	A great deal	A fair amount	A little	None at all	Don't know		A great deal	A fair amount	A little	None at all	Don't know	
Global warming: deciding what to do about global warming												
Environmental scientists	47	38	7	3	4	3.4	48	37	9	3	3	3.3
Elected officials	17	33	33	13	4	2.6	12	35	34	17	3	2.4
Business leaders	10	22	38	25	5	2.2	8	22	40	27	3	2.1
Genetically modified foods: deciding whether to restrict the sale of GM foods												
Medical researchers	41	40	10	3	5	3.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Elected officials	7	30	37	21	5	2.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Business leaders	3	16	41	35	5	1.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Stem cell research: deciding about government funding for stem cell research												
Medical researchers	39	41	11	4	5	3.2	41	39	11	5	4	3.2
Elected officials	11	35	32	15	6	2.4	9	32	34	21	4	2.3
Religious leaders	8	21	36	29	6	2.1	7	18	36	35	4	2.0
Nuclear power: deciding whether to expand the use of nuclear power												
Nuclear engineers	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	38	41	11	4	6	3.2
Elected officials	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	38	35	11	6	2.5
Business leaders	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	27	42	21	5	2.2
Federal income taxes: deciding on whether to reduce federal income taxes												
Economists	21	51	18	4	6	2.9	18	55	18	4	6	2.9
Elected officials	21	40	24	11	4	2.7	23	39	24	9	5	2.8
Business leaders	9	37	36	13	4	2.5	11	41	33	10	5	2.6

NA = not available, question not asked

GM = genetically modified

NOTES: Responses to *How much influence should each of the following groups have in deciding: what to do about global warming policy; about government funding for stem cell research; whether to reduce federal income taxes; whether to expand the use of nuclear power; whether to restrict sale of genetically modified foods?* Mean preferred influence score based on 4-point scale, where 4 = a great deal of influence, 3 = a fair amount, 2 = a little influence, 1 = none at all. In 2006, questions on global warming and stem cell research asked of 928 survey respondents; questions on genetically modified foods and federal income taxes asked of 936 respondents. In 2010, questions on global warming and stem cell research asked of 961 survey respondents; questions on nuclear power and federal income taxes asked of 971 respondents. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006, 2010).

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